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LB 17

this bill, LB 17. We're talking about people who are in the custody of our state, who have trusted our state to take care of them, to ensure that nothing bad happens to them, and LB 17 deals with something that we have already dealt with when we're talking about incarcerated individuals. And yet, we're talking about people here who, through no fault of their own, have committed no crime, and yet sometimes are victimized while they're in the custody of the state. So I thank Senator Brashear for the underlying bill of LB 17 and I wholeheartedly support it. I've added my name to LB 17. The committee amendment deals with a multiple number of bills and, quite honestly, I'm disappointed to see them here, not because I object to any one of them, and I think that they certainly have a place in an omnibus bill from the Judiciary Committee. But I'm disappointed to see them amended onto LB 17 because, in a sense, it really trivializes the issue of LB 17. You see, the people we're talking about here in LB 17 are people who have been victimized in a very, very serious way, and their lives have been affected, perhaps in a permanent manner. And we're throwing in here some fees, we're throwing in here air bags, we're throwing in here impairment by alcohol by individuals, we're talking about forgery, we're talking about puppies, we're talking about mercury thermometers. And I think it's rather sad that we're trivializing the real crime that we're talking about in LB 17 with this addition. I'm going to vote red on the amendment, not because I don't support all of those issues, and certainly would vote affirmatively for them in any other bill, either individually or group. But in respect for the individuals that LB 17 was designed for, I would like to see the bill stand alone because I think it's of that kind of import. Certainly when we've talked about anything like the death penalty, we don't add other issues. And while that might not be important to other people, I'm thinking about these victims and, out of respect to them, I would like to see the bill stay in its pure form. And again, I want to thank Senator Brashear for it, and for the Judiciary Committee for sending it out here for your perusal. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Those wishing to speak to the committee amendments to LB 17 are Senators Engel, Preister, Hartnett, Mines, Brashear, and Chambers.